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# THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 13, 1886.

[No. 1.

## PLEASE DON'T STEP THERE, SIR.

A LAYER of snow was spread over the icy streets, and pedestrians, clad with india-rubber, walked carefully toward the village church on a cold Sabbath morning in February.

Walking somewhat hastily churchward, for it was late, I noticed a bright-looking little lad standing upon the pavement with his cap in his hand, and his eyes fixed upon one spot on the sidewalk. As I approached him he looked up to me, and, pointing to the place,

"Please don't step there, sir; I slipped here and fell down."

I thanked the philanthropic little fellow, and passed round the dangerous spot.

"Don't step there," was the theme of my citations during the remainder of the walk.

A thousand times I have heard the clear voice of that kind-hearted boy rung in my ear, reminding me of my

words to those around me, and urging me to repeat, wherever it promises to be useful, "Please, sir, don't step there."

When I see a youth entering the path of a Sabbath-breaker I would cry, "Don't



PLEASE DON'T STEP THERE, SIR.

step there!" When I see a boy tempted to go with youths who drink, smoke, or gamble, I would cry, "Don't step there!"

When I see boys or girls commencing a course of disobedience to parents, I

and making a fire of it. Just so in a family; love is what makes the parents and children, the brothers and sisters happy. But if they take care never to say a word about it; if they keep it a profound secret as

would say, "Don't step there!"

As on the path of life we tread,  
We come to many a place  
Where, if not careful, we may fall,  
And sink in sad disgrace.

Some idle habit, word, or thought,  
Some sin, however small,  
May make us stumble in the path,  
And, stumbling, we may fall.

Our fellow travellers on the road,  
We'll warn with anxious care,  
And when they reach some dangerous spot,  
We'll warn them "Don't step there."

## KINDNESS.

THE world is full of kindness that never was spoken and that was not much better than no kindness at all. The fuel in the stove makes the room warm, but there are great piles of fallen trees lying on the rocks and on tops of hills where nobody can get them; these do not make anybody warm. You might freeze to death for want of wood in plain sight of these fallen trees, if you had no means of getting the wood home

if it were a crime, they will not be much happier than if they were not any love among them, the house will seem cool even in summer, and if you live there you will envy the dog when anybody calls him poor fellow.—*Dr. Holland.*

### WHAT SEED SHALL WE SOW?

A WONDERFUL thing is a seed,  
The one thing deathless forever!  
The one thing changeless—utterly true,  
Forever old and forever new,  
And fickle and faithless never.

Plant blessings, blessings will bloom;  
Plant hate, hate will grow;  
You can sow to-day, to-morrow will bring  
The blossom that proves what sort of thing  
Is the seed, the seed you sow.

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## The Sunbeam.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 13 1886

### THE EARLIER THE EASIER.

ONE day I stood at a locked gate which led to a beautiful green field. Between the closed gate and the stone wall was a small opening, but I could not push through it, even if it were to save my life. A band of little children came tripping up, and one after another went up to the narrow opening, and without any difficulty slipped through, and were in the play-ground. I could not but think how easy it is for children to get in. And I remembered the text which tells of another gate, easier for children to enter than for grown-up people: "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

ASK the Lord to help you be a good child all this week. He loves to help his dear little ones all the time.



OUR BABY.

### WEE BABIES.

BABIES short, and babies tall,  
Babies big, and babies small,  
Blue-eyed babies, babies fair,  
Brown-eyed babies with lots of hair,  
Babies so tiny they can't sit up,  
Babies that drink from a silver cup,  
Babies that coo, and babies that creep,  
Babies that only can eat and sleep,  
Babies that laugh and babies that talk,  
Babies quite big enough to walk,  
Dimpled fingers, and dimpled feet,  
What in the world is half so sweet  
As babies that jump, laugh, cry, and crawl,  
Eat, sleep, talk, walk, creep, coo, and all  
Wee babies?

### TELEPHONING TO GOD.

A LITTLE girl who had never heard of a telephone was filled with wonder when she first saw one being used. She understood there was a conversation being carried on, but with whom, and where the person was, were both mysteries to her. Seeing her deep interest, the matter was explained.

Some time afterwards she was visiting her grandpapa, and family worship was a new thing to her. She asked many questions about it. Her grandpapa told her of God, who made all things, and who gives us all the blessings we enjoy.

"But, grandpapa, I never saw him. Where is he?"

She was told that he was everywhere, and could see and hear us though we saw him not. For some time she sat lost in thought.

Then suddenly her eyes sparkled, and she exclaimed:

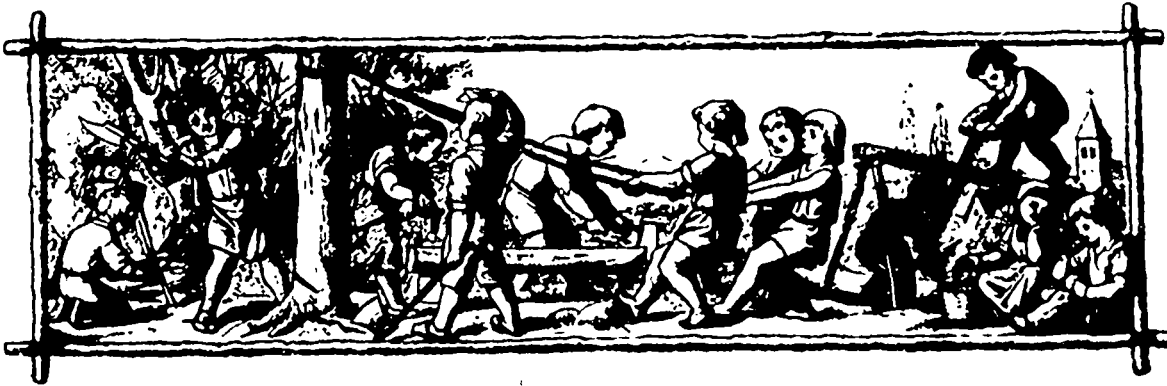
"I see; I know now. When we pray we telephone to God!"

When we pray, dear readers, do we always realize, as we do when we speak through the telephone, that our words will be heard and answered, "If we ask aright? As a tender parent stoops down to listen to the request of the little one, so our Heavenly Father "inclines his ear" to hear us. He is the "hearer and answerer of prayer." Whatever gives us anxiety or trouble, even though it be too small to tell our fellow-creatures, we may pour into his ear; with the assurance that if he does not see fit to remove it, he will give us strength to bear it. Let us in our prayers "become as little children."

### HOW HE WENT OVER IT.

"ONE Lord's Day a Christian gentleman was walking to church, when he met a man driving a heavily loaded waggon. The gentleman stopped, and, looking under the waggon as if in horror, said: "There you've gone right over it!" The driver was frightened. He stopped his horses and looked under his waggon, expecting to see some injured child or animal. But nothing was there. "What did I go over?" he asked. "Over the Fourth Commandment," was the reply. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

THE love of God in the heart, is a flower which in its early bud, is joy, and its full bloom is heaven.



THE YOUNG WORKERS.

## CHILD'S PRAYER.

Now, tired I am at close of day :  
I'll go to rest ; but first I'll pray—  
Heavenly Father, may thine eye  
Above my bed watch very nigh.

Forgive the wrong this day I've done,  
For Jesus' sake, thine own dear Son ;  
And may his blood, once shed for me,  
From all that's sinful set me free.

Bless parents, brothers, sisters dear,  
Each whom I love, both far and near ;  
Bless all thy children, great and small,  
I pray thee, Father of us all.

## REMEMBER.

How beautiful are these words, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." And how beautiful a thing it is to remember God while we are young. There are many people who forget God. There are some who do not seem to think of God at all. Perhaps they did not remember God when they were young. We must remember God as our Creator. It is he who gave us life. He made the air we breathe, and he makes the food grow which we eat. He sends his sunshine and rain so that the wheat and the grass and all our fruits may grow. We must remember God's holy commandments. God speaks to us and tells us what we must do. We must remember what he says, as we remember what our fathers and mothers tells us to do. We must remember God to love him. God is very great and very good, and he loves us. He so loved us that he gave for us his dear Son, Jesus, to die for us that we might be saved from our sins. We must love God in return. Jesus said, "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." We must love God and keep his commandments. We must remember God in the days of our youth. That means we must remember him in our childhood. If we forget God when we are young we shall hardly remember him when we are old. If we do not

love God, and fear and serve him in our young days we shall not care to do so when we are older.

## THE GOLDEN TEXT.

A LITTLE three year-old girl, who had lately begun learning the "Golden Texts," took a great fancy to some trimming her aunt was making, and begged her to give her a piece for her doll's dress.

"Oh! no, Lena, I can't cut it," said her aunt.

"Just a little piece, please, aunty," pleaded the child.

But again the aunt refused, and more emphatically than before. The little one regarded her for a moment with serious eyes, then climbing up behind her put her arms about her neck and whispered in her ear:

"Aunty, the Lord lubbef a cheerful gibber."

"Here, child, take your trimming, every inch of it," said her aunt, crowding it into her hands with a kiss and a hug.

## SHUT THE DOOR.

Two gentlemen sat near the door of a railway carriage on a cold morning. A young man went out and left the door ajar. One of the gentlemen rose and shut it, and then said: "This makes twice that I shut this door after that man during the last few minutes. Somebody will probably have to do it for him as long as he lives."

What amount of work just in shutting doors will this young man impose on others during his life! Boys, shut the doors after you! It is selfish and mean to take advantage of other people by making them do your work for you.

ONE day Rose was very busy, trying to help mamma. "Isn't this very hard for such a tiny girl?" I asked. Her look was just like a ray of sunshine as she said: "It isn't very hard, because I do it for mamma; and I love mamma."

## WHAT AILED THE PILLOW.

WHILE Annie was saying her prayers, Nell trifled with a shadow picture on the wall. Not satisfied with playing alone, she would talk to Annie, that mite of a figure in gold and white-golden curls and snowy gown, by the bedside.

"Now, Annie, watch Annie, just see!"

Annie, do look!" she said, over and over again. Annie, who was not to be persuaded, finished her prayer, and crept into bed, whither her thoughtless sister followed, as the light must be out in just so many minutes. Presently Nell took to floundering, punching, and "O dearing." Then she laid quite awhile, only to renew energy.

"What's the matter?" asked Annie, at length.

"My pillow!" tossing, thumping, kneading. "It's as flat as a board, and hard as a stone; I can't think what ails it."

"I know," answered Annie, in her sweet serious way.

"What?"

"There's no prayer in it."

For a second or two Nell was as still as a mouse, then she scrambled out on the floor, with a shiver, it's true, but she was determined never afterwards to try to sleep on a prayerless pillow.

"That must have been what ailed it," she whispered, soon after getting into bed again; "it's all right now."

I think that is what ails a great many pillows on which restless heads, both little and big, nightly toss and turn; there are no prayers in them. Nell's remedy was the best—the only one.—*Southern Churchman.*

## SAY YES TO JESUS.

A LITTLE girl was once asked what it was to believe in Jesus. She said: "Why, it is just saying 'Yes' to him when he asks us to come to him to find rest."

Was not that a beautiful answer? Can any older person explain faith better? And since it is so easy to believe in him, why cannot we all trust him as our Saviour? He says: "Come to me, and I will give you rest. Come, and I will fill you with bread." Let us all say: "Yes Lord; I come to receive these good things."

TEACH me to do thy will, O Lord,  
Help me to love thy holy Word,  
All thy commandments to obey,  
That I may please thee every day.

## THE CHILD'S BELIEF.

We believe in God the Father,  
Who made us every one,  
Who made the earth and heaven,  
The moon and stars and sun;  
And all that we have, each day,  
By him to us is given,  
We call him, when we pray,  
"Our Father in heaven"

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
"The Father's only Son,"  
Who came to us from heaven  
And loved us, every one.  
He taught us to be holy,  
Till on the cross he died,  
And now we call him "Saviour,"  
And "Christ the crucified."

We believe God's Holy Spirit  
Is with us every day;  
And, if we do not grieve him,  
Will never go away.  
From heaven upon Jesus  
He descended like a dove,  
And he dwelleth ever with us  
To fill our hearts with love.

## LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 536.] LESSON VIII. Feb. 21.

## THE SECOND TEMPLE.

*Ezra 1. 1-4, & 3. 8-11. Commit to memory vs. 2-4.*

## GOLDEN TEXT.

They praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. *Ezra 3. 11.*

## OUTLINE.

1. A Charge to Cyrus, v. 1, 2.
2. A Call to Israel, v. 3, 4.
3. A Thanksgiving to God, v. 8-13.

## QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What came from the Lord to King Cyrus? Word to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem.

What notice did the king give throughout the kingdom? That all the Jews were free.

What did he charge them to do? To go up to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple.

What was his command to his own people? That they help the poor Jews to go with the rest.

How were they to help them? With money, cattle, and goods.

What was given the Jews for the temple? A free-will offering from the king.

What was that offering? The gold and silver vessels that *Nebuchadnezzar* carried away from the temple.

Who led the Jews back to their own land? Zerubbabel, chief ruler, and Jeshua, high-priest.

What was first rebuilt? The altar of sacrifice.

What was offered unto the Lord? Sacrifices and burnt offerings.

When were the foundations of the temple laid? In the second year of their freedom.

Who were gathered together at that time? The priests, the Levites, and the people.

How did they praise God for his goodness? With songs and music.

What did the people do? They shouted with joy. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Who wept and mourned? Many of the priests and the old men.

For what did they weep? For the lost glory of the temple and of Israel.

## WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

God was watching those lowly, sorry captives all the time, and as soon as he knew it was best, he heard their prayer for forgiveness and set them free. They were so glad to get home and begin again, that they sang songs and fairly shouted for joy. When they commenced to build their temple again, how did they feel? See GOLDEN TEXT.

No temple was ever built that God so loved to come and stay in, as in a little clean heart.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The call of the Gospel.

## CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

*Who was Caiaphas?* The high priest who condemned Christ.

*Who was Pontius Pilate?* The governor of Judea, who delivered up Jesus to be crucified.

B.C. 445.] LESSON IX. [Feb. 28.

## NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER.

*Neh. 1. 1-11. Commit to memory vs. 8, 9.*

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. *Psa. 108. 12*

## OUTLINE.

1. A People's Need, v. 1-3.
2. A Patriot's Prayer, v. 4-11.

## QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who lived in the palace of the king of Persia? Nehemiah, a wise and pious Jew.

Who came to the palace? Some Jews from Jerusalem.

What news did they bring of the Jews there? That they were poor and despised.

What was the state of Jerusalem? It was without wall or gates.

Why was this a disgrace? In those days a city without wall or gates was not considered a city.

How was Nehemiah affected when he heard these things? He sat down and wept.

To whom did he go in his trouble? To the God of Israel. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did he confess? His sins and those of his people.

For what did he ask? For mercy and forgiveness.

What did he pray God to remember? His promise to Moses.

What was that promise? That he would bless the Israelites when they obeyed and worshipped him.

What brought all their trouble upon them? Forsaking God.

What had brought them prosperity? Obedience to God.

How is it with us to-day? The same—"The word of the Lord standeth forever."

## WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

The dearest mother, father, or friend in all the world cannot help us as Jesus can. Kind and willing as they are they cannot always and every-where be near to help us. But we can never be where God cannot and will not help.

"Praying is but telling Jesus  
All our want and all our woe;  
None but Jesus can relieve us,  
None but Jesus loves us so.

And to Jesus  
Every one is free to go."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The nature of prayer.

## CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

*Who was Joseph of Arimathea?* A rich man who buried Jesus in his own tomb.

*Who were the Four Evangelists?* St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John; who wrote the Four Gospels.

## NOT OUR OWN.

A LITTLE boy was debating what to do with some money his uncle had given him. He wanted to buy candy with it, but felt that he ought to give a part of it for the missionary society of which he was a member. At last he said, "I guess it is mine, and I can do as I please with it." "No," said his brother, "you can not do as you please, for you are not your own; I heard our minister say that we were all bought with the blood of Christ. If he has bought us, we are his, and the missionaries are his, and we must please him, not ourselves."